



# How to Clean Your AquaLab

**It's Fast!  
It's Easy!**



Dr. Betty



Professor Bob



???



**If you think this man is cleaning his AquaLab, READ ON...!**



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**DECAGON DEVICES**

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Credits: Art by Brad Teare  
Words: Decagon staff

We hope this brochure will be  
helpful in maintaining your  
AquaLab.

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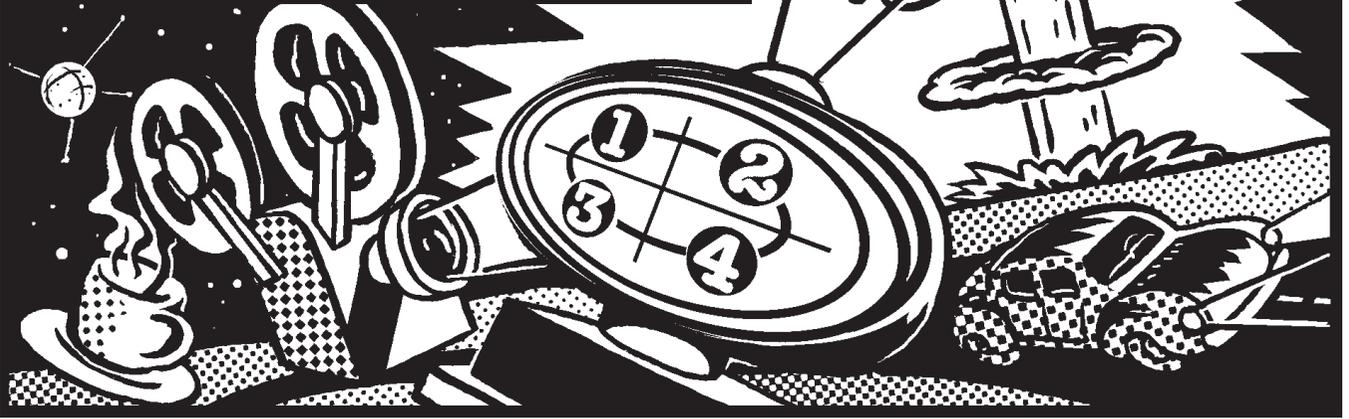
Thanks to AquaLab  
water activity meter  
we have a brighter  
future!

Read on to  
find out  
how you  
too can  
clean  
AquaLab!

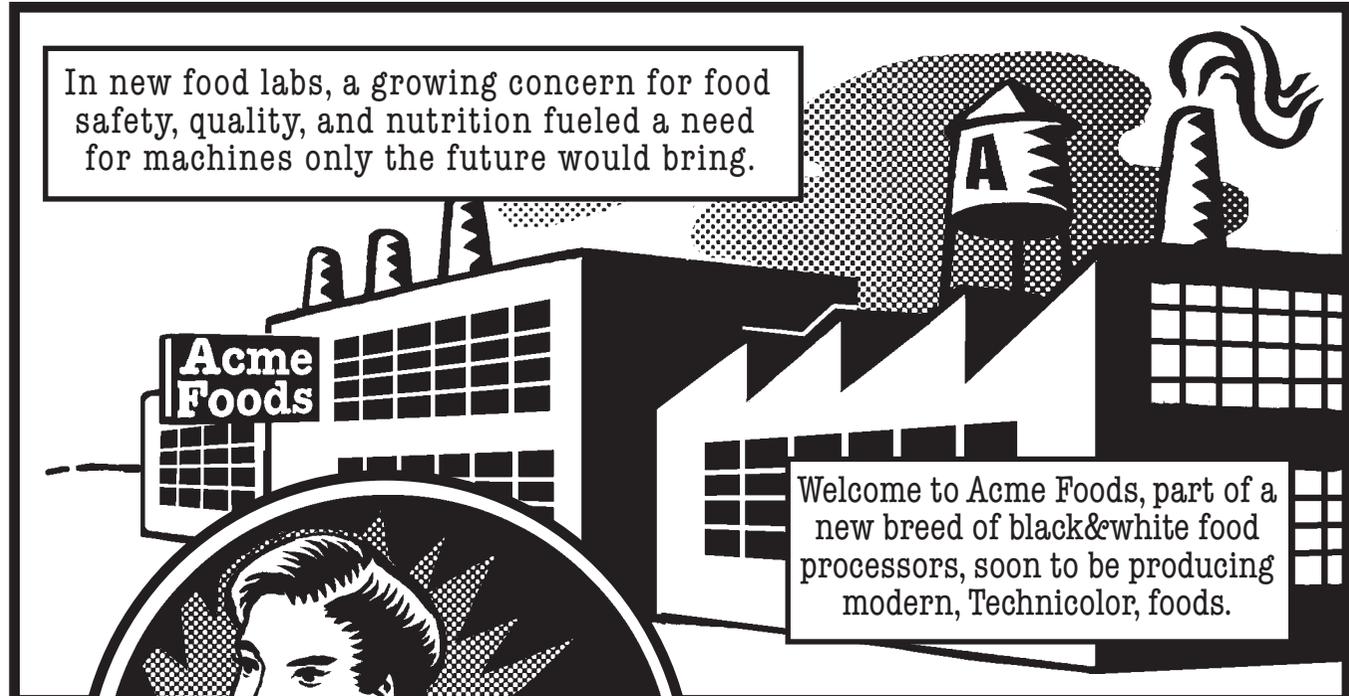
For best performance ...  
set up a cleaning schedule based  
on usage, every 2 weeks or 1800  
samples, etc. Verify performance  
daily (or per shift) using  
standard salt solutions.  
When in doubt, clean it.

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It was the black & white, post-war atomic age. Panoramic movies, television, and stereo sound were infant ideas yet unleashed on an unsuspecting world.



In new food labs, a growing concern for food safety, quality, and nutrition fueled a need for machines only the future would bring.



Welcome to Acme Foods, part of a new breed of black&white food processors, soon to be producing modern, Technicolor, foods.



Dr. Betty Smith, a young 20-something quality control expert, works at one of America's finest food processors, Acme Foods.

Somewhere in  
the Future

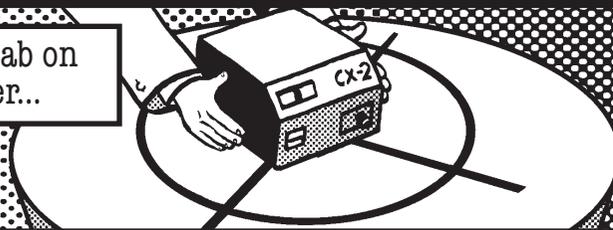


Agent X  
(Time traveler  
extraordinaire)

I saw the dangerous  
moments  
when safe food hung  
in the balance.



Agent X places AquaLab  
on  
the time transporter...



As a Time  
Machine  
Operator 2nd  
class, I'll  
transfer  
AquaLab CX2  
water  
activity  
meters back  
in time.

Thanks to the AquaLab CX2  
I'll save humanity from microbes tainted  
food causing poor nourishment, and  
tasteless comestibles.



When I push this Button  
the AquaLab will travel  
into the past!



CLICK!

Meanwhile,  
back in the  
past...

Professor Bob Jones,  
Betty's co-worker, fiddles  
with gizmos on the bench.



Believe me, water  
activity is the future for  
quality and food shelf life.

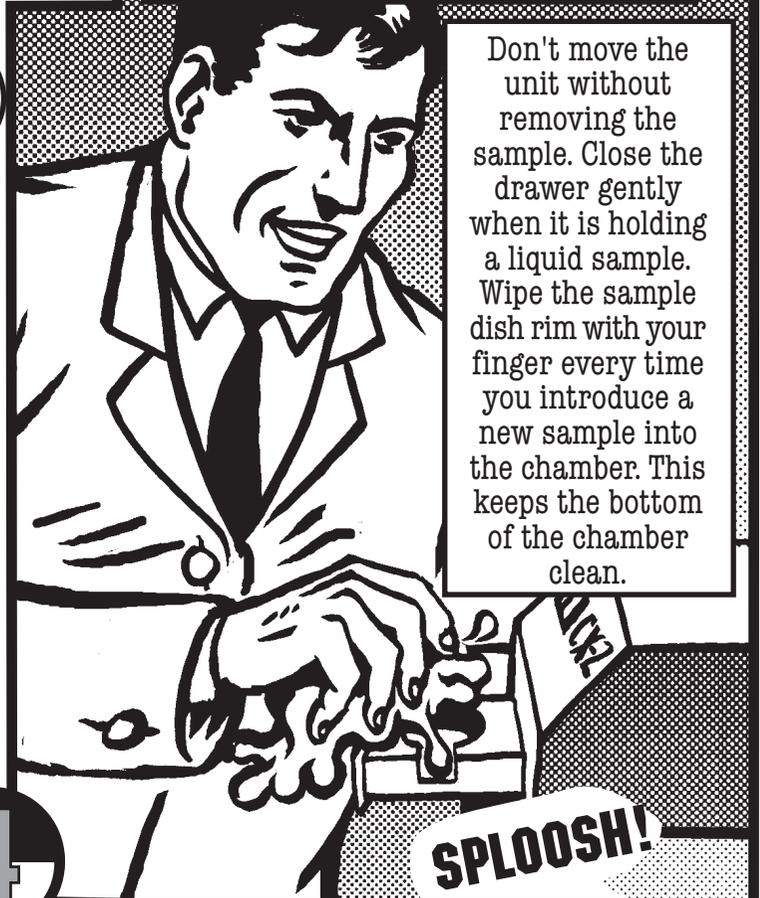
Bob!, speaking of water activity,  
this instrument just mysteriously  
appeared on our test bench!  
Did you put it here?



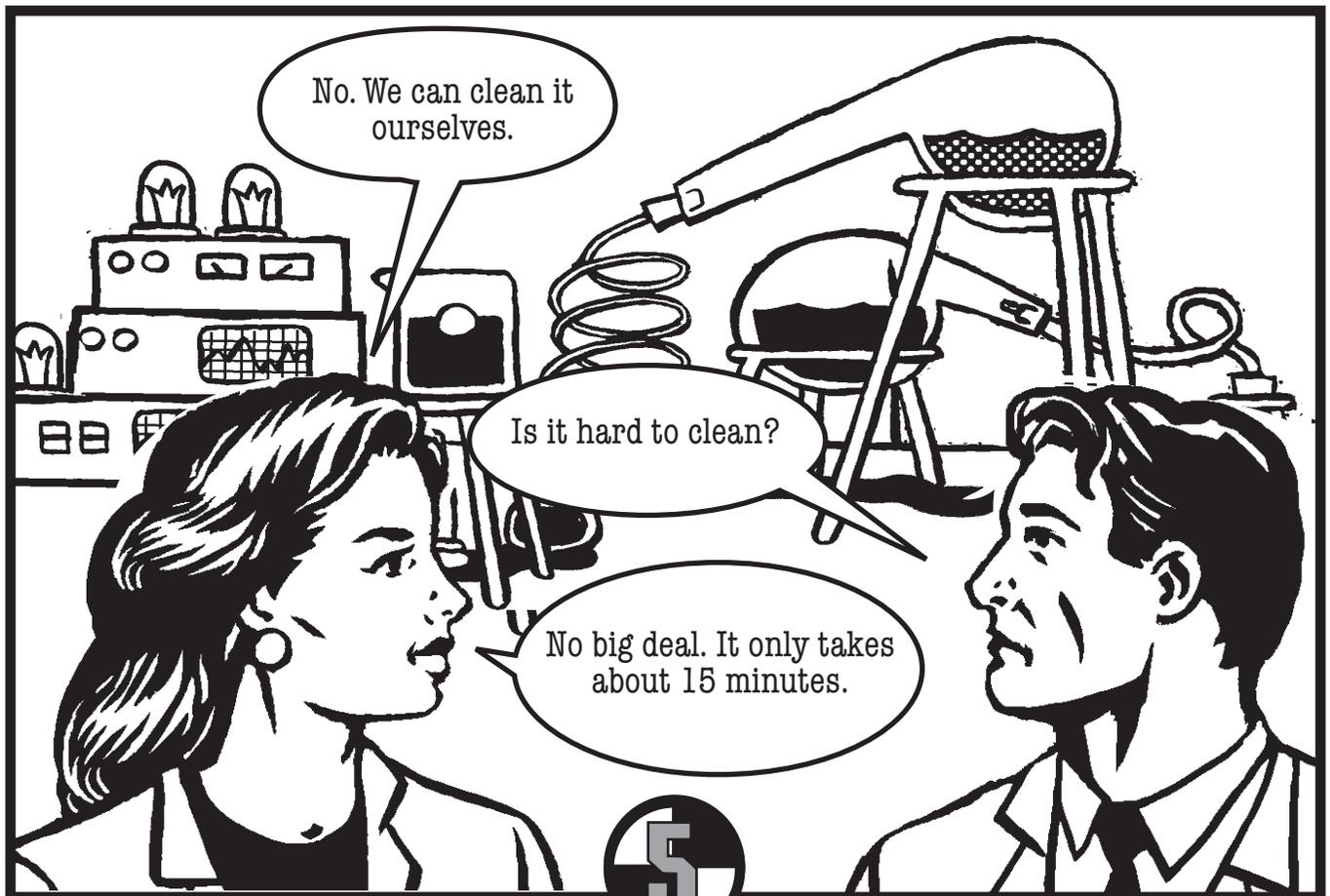
In his eagerness, Bob crams a huge  
food sample in AquaLab gunking  
the sensor chamber.

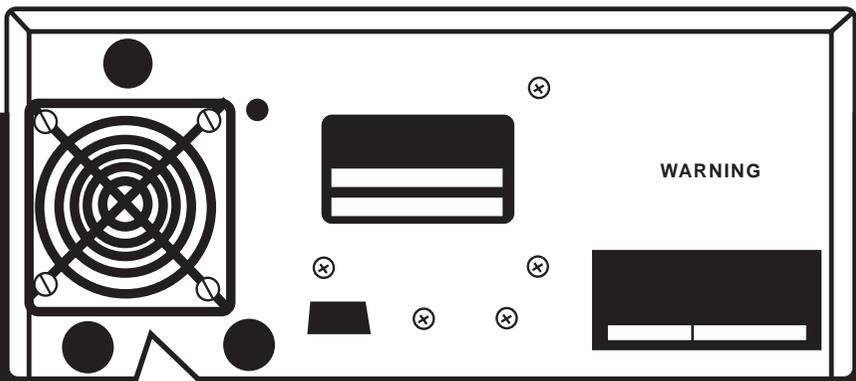


Golly gee whiz!  
I've always dreamed  
of owning a gizmo  
like this!



Don't move the  
unit without  
removing the  
sample. Close the  
drawer gently  
when it is holding  
a liquid sample.  
Wipe the sample  
dish rim with your  
finger every time  
you introduce a  
new sample into  
the chamber. This  
keeps the bottom  
of the chamber  
clean.





It says in the manual to check the filter in back first.



Gently release plastic grill. Remove foam filter and wash it with soapy water.

It looks Okay. Let's go to the next step



Clean the filter on the back regularly. Don't let it plug up. A plugged filter causes temperature errors.

Unlike machines of Betty and Bob's era, AquaLab is easy to service. See how amazed they are at the convenience.



It says all we need to clean AquaLab's sensors are some kimwipes, tweezers, and distilled water. We have all that stuff already!



I don't think Kimwipes have been invented yet.

**Keep it clean.** Never use pressurized or canned air for cleaning. It will coat your AquaLab with contamination.

In that case, use any lint free cloth.



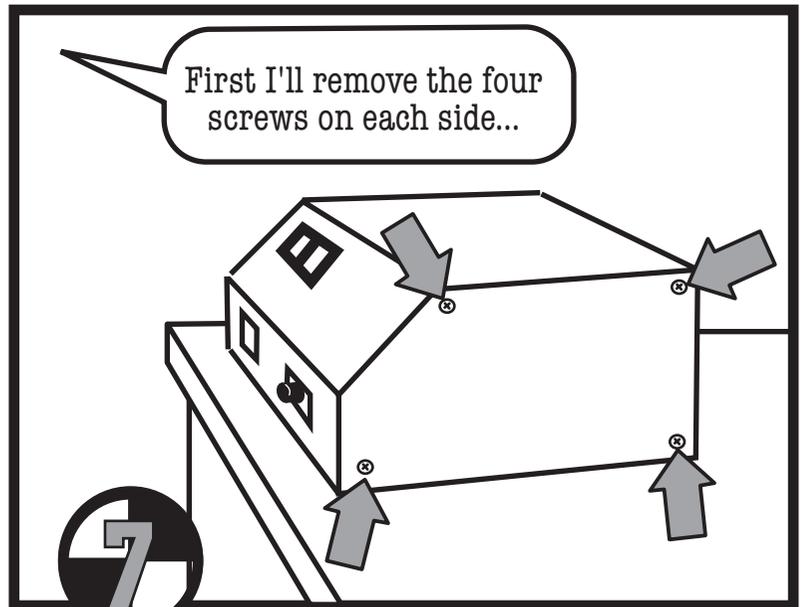
See who's on the phone while I remove the 8 screws holding on AquaLab's top and the 4 screws inside the block assembly.



Hello?



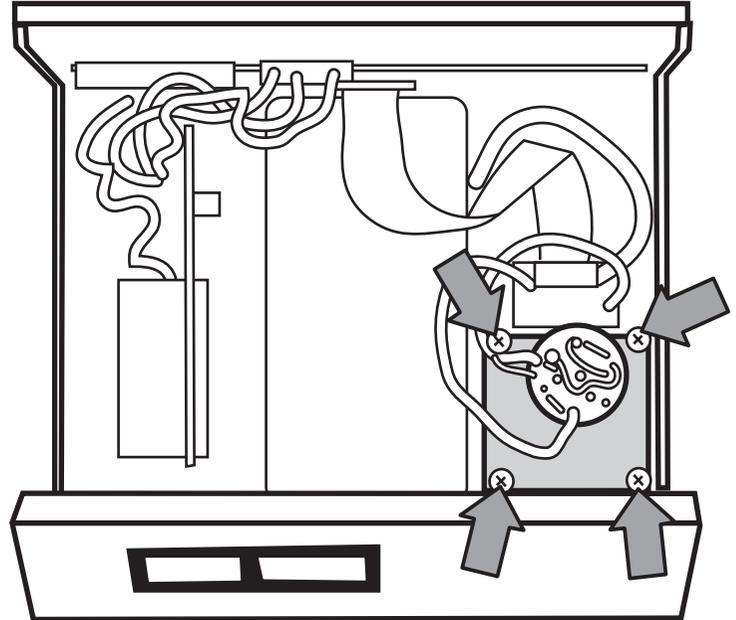
First I'll remove the four screws on each side...



After I remove the 8 screws  
I remove the top.

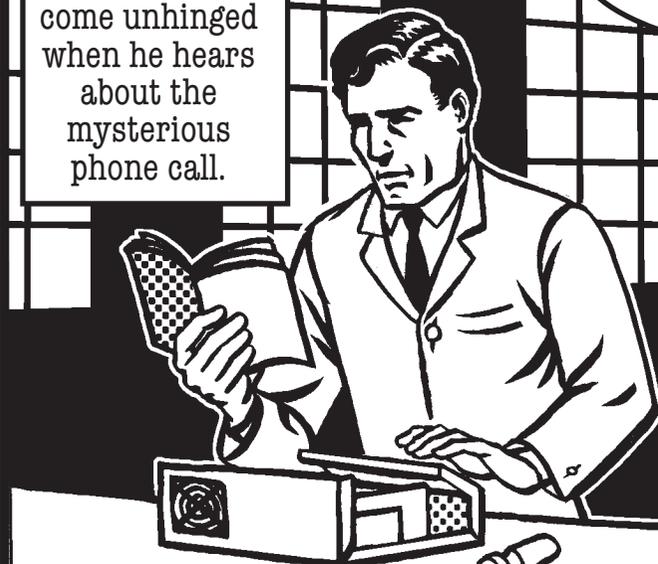


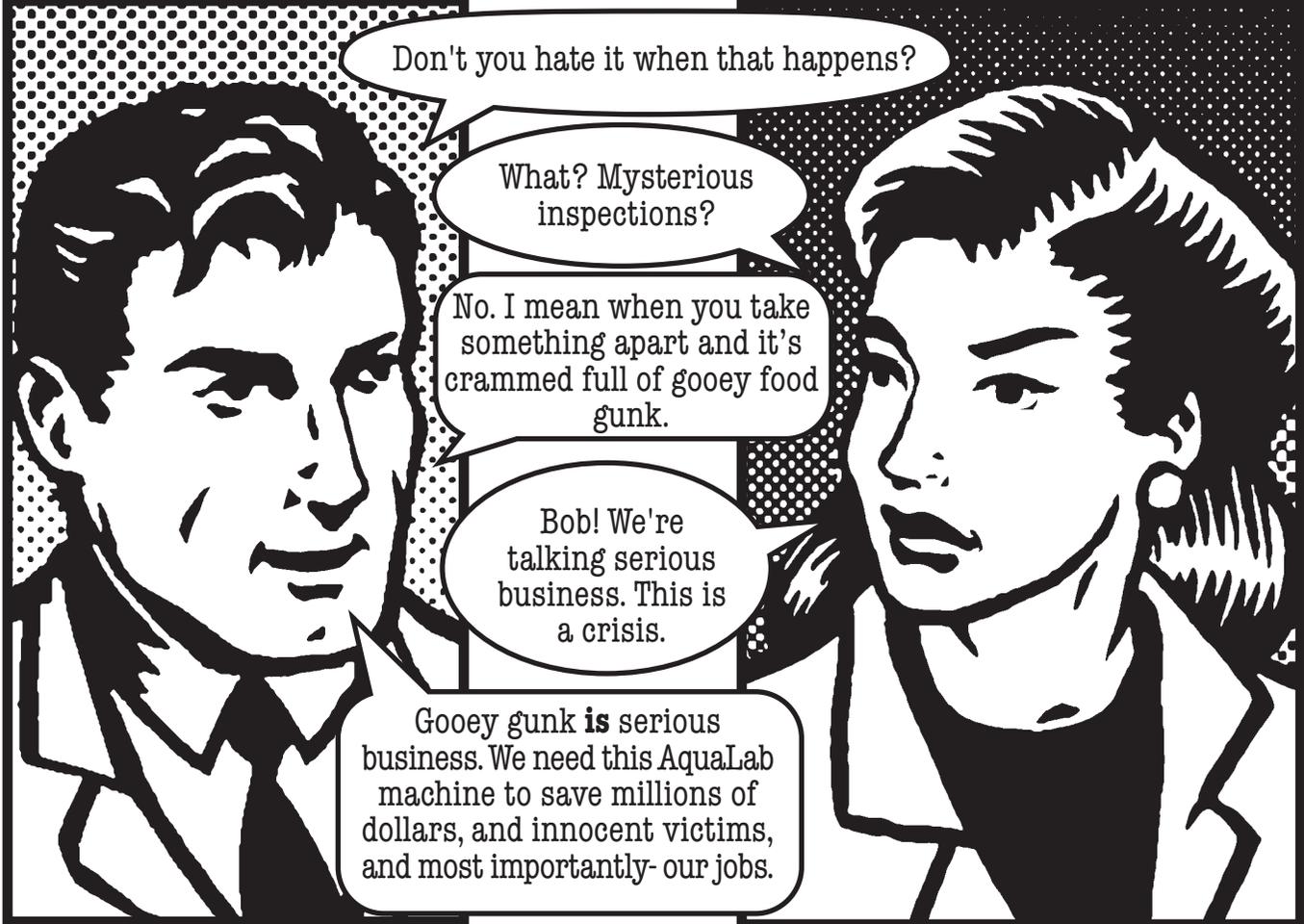
Next I remove the 4 screws  
on the sensor block.



Bob's obviously  
confident now.  
He doesn't even  
come unhinged  
when he hears  
about the  
mysterious  
phone call.

That was headquarters. A mysterious  
government agency will be here shortly  
to perform a mysterious food inspection.





Don't you hate it when that happens?

What? Mysterious inspections?

No. I mean when you take something apart and it's crammed full of gooey food gunk.

Bob! We're talking serious business. This is a crisis.

Goopy gunk **is** serious business. We need this AquaLab machine to save millions of dollars, and innocent victims, and most importantly- our jobs.

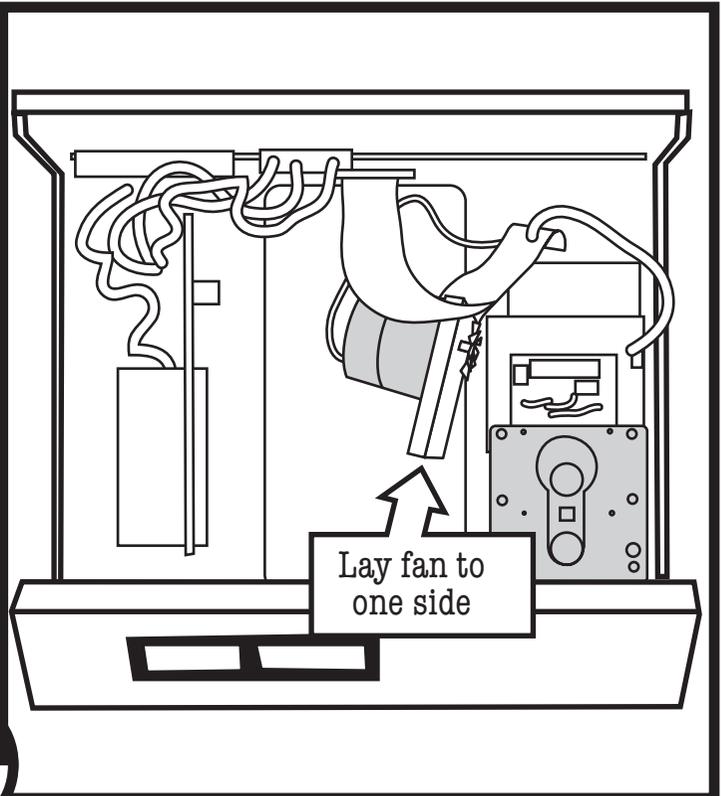


You're right. Let me unplug the fan assembly and set it to the side for you.

If you break a blade off the tiny internal fan located inside the sensor block, your instrument cannot reach equilibrium and must be factory repaired. Just use a little care when handling the fan assembly.



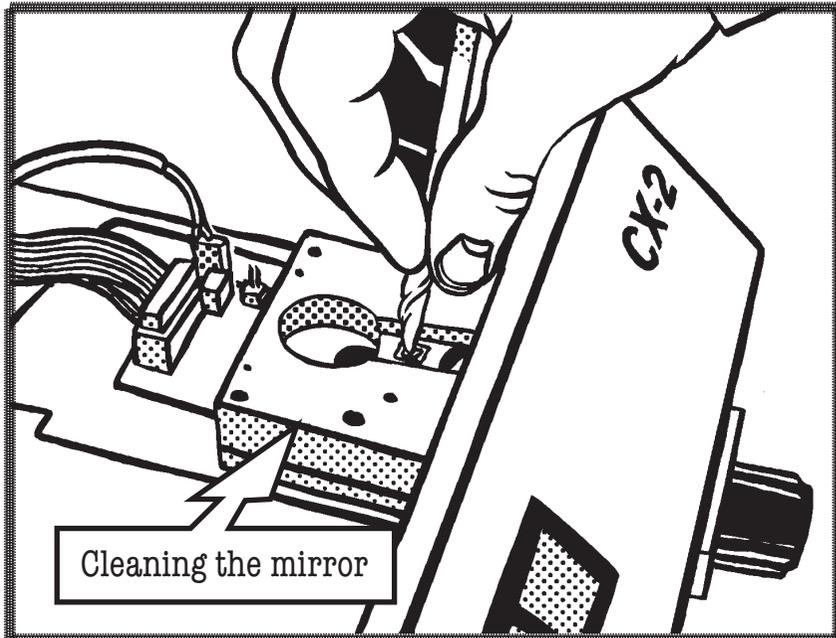
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"Thanks, Betty. I knew you'd see my logic. Next we clean the sensor mirror. Swab it with gentle strokes.



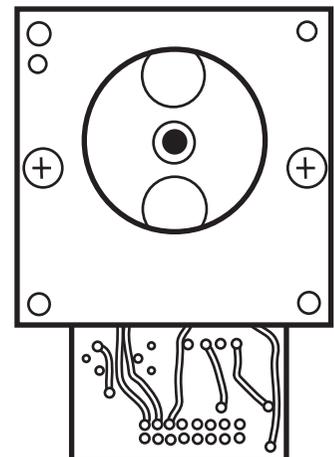
It says do not use a Q-tip during cleaning. Glue residues holding the Q-tip together can get on the mirrored surface. What's a Q-tip anyway?



### Clean the mirror.

A dirty mirror is the main cause of bad water activity readings. The contamination is sometimes invisible to the naked eye; film, dust, oil, and even a fingerprint can throw things off. Clean all surfaces of the block. It is critical for film and non-H<sub>2</sub>O soluble substances to be removed without scratching or etching. Start with distilled water and a KIM wipe. Don't use a foam Q-tip. They have a glue in them which leaves a tough residue. Paper towel leaves tint and sizing material residue. Lint-free KIM wipes are critical for successful mirror cleaning.

After the mirror is clean we clean the temperature sensor on the lower block



Close-up of underside of block

If the sensor is quite sticky, it is usually necessary to clean the bottom of the sample temperature sensor with alcohol.

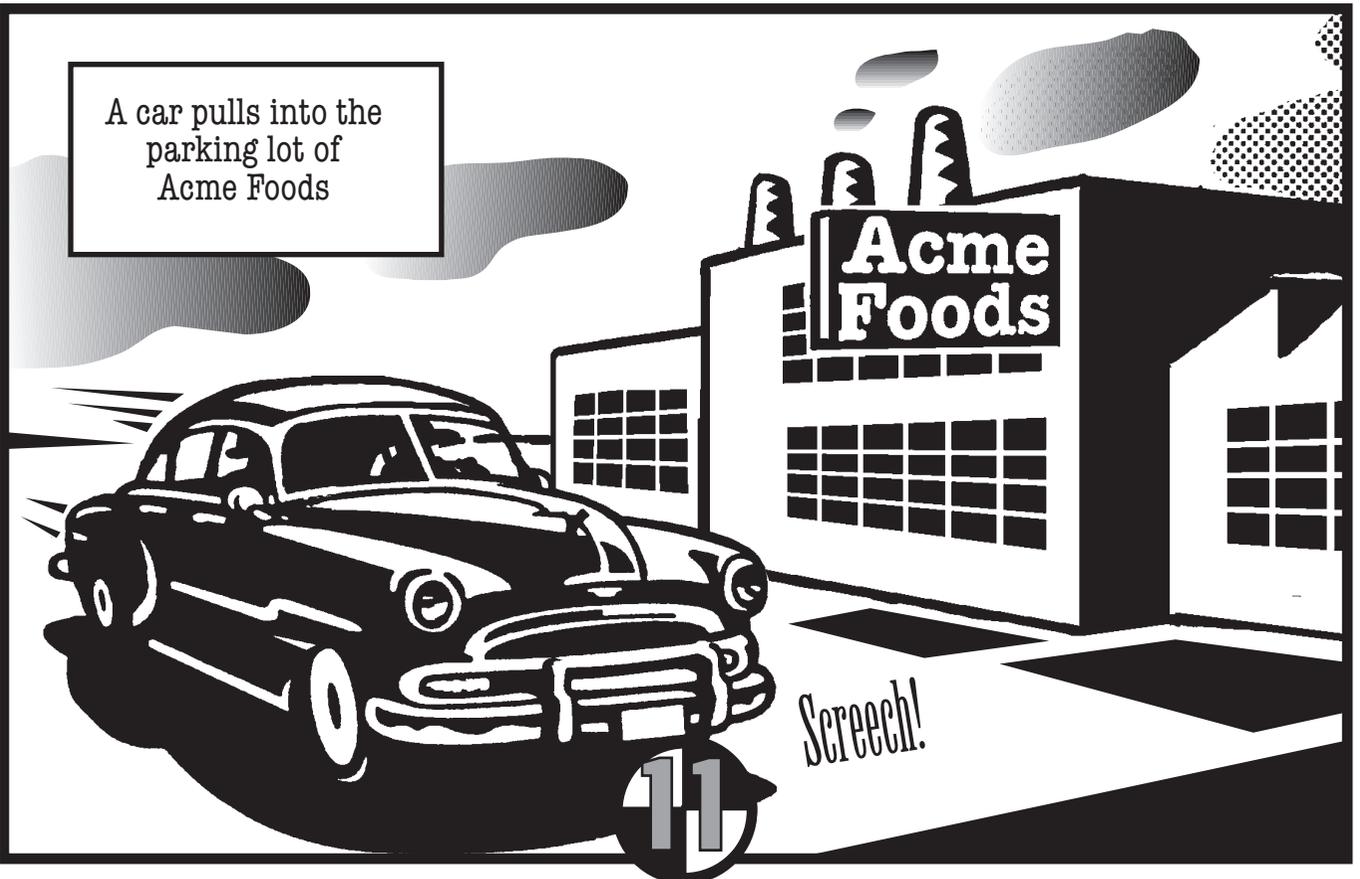
Always clean the mirror, thermopile, and the optical sensor. After you finish cleaning them to your satisfaction, clean them one more time. If water doesn't work, use 99% isopropyl alcohol.



Meanwhile...



A car pulls into the parking lot of Acme Foods



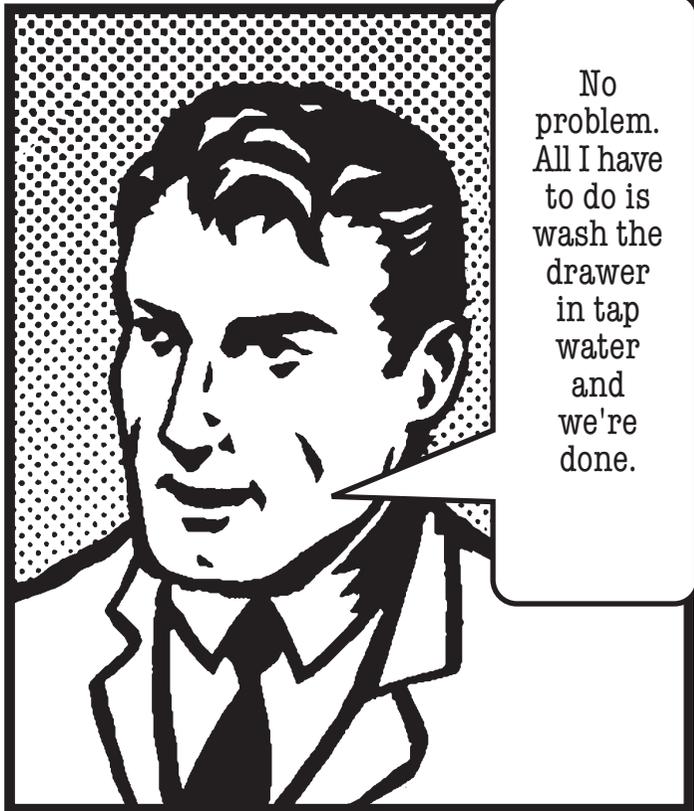
Outside two suits get out.

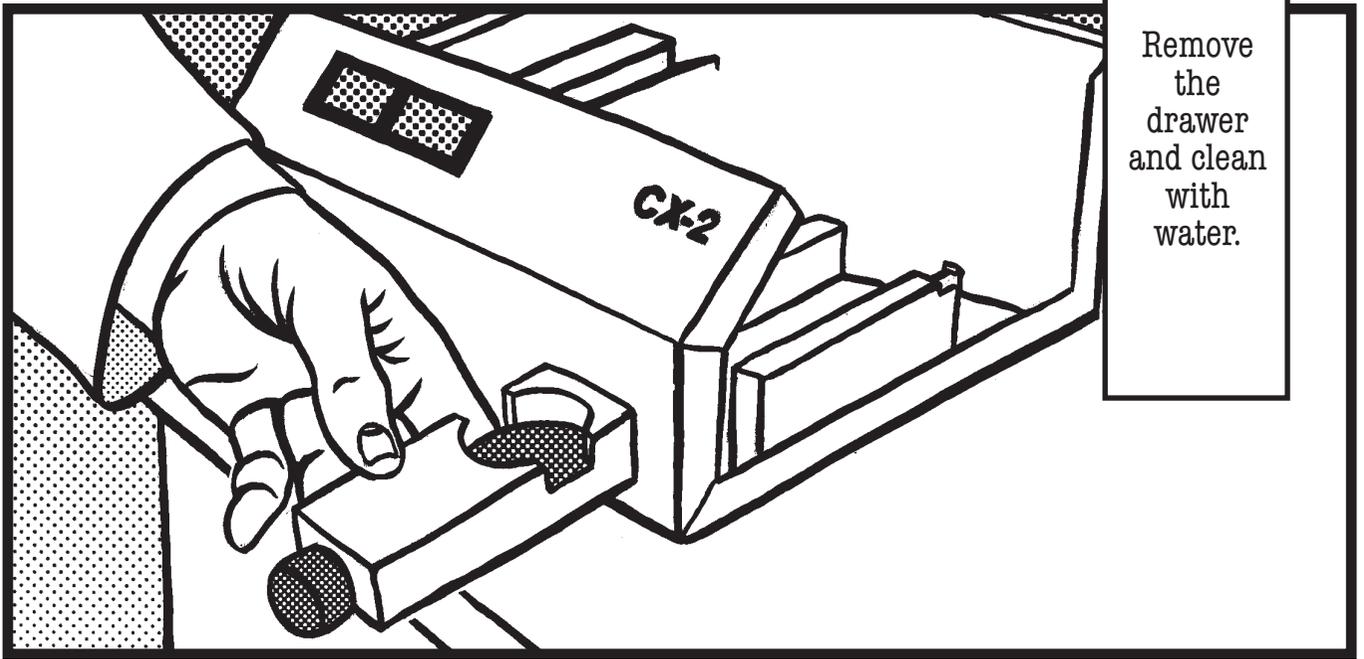


Oh, no! It's those mysterious inspectors in suits, trench coats, and pork pie hats. They're arriving from the mysterious government regulatory agency.

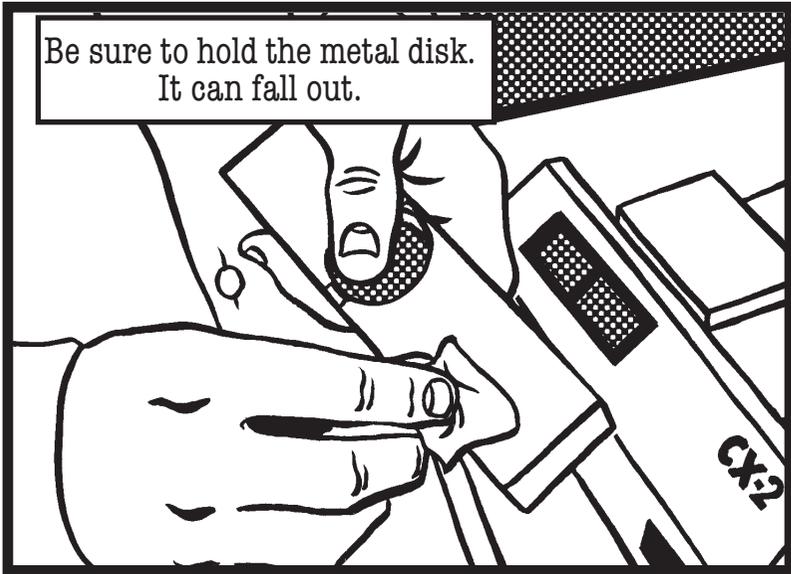


No problem. All I have to do is wash the drawer in tap water and we're done.





Remove the drawer and clean with water.

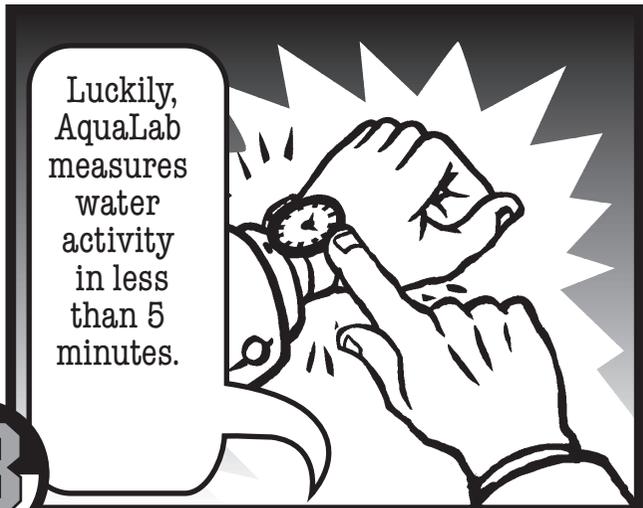


Be sure to hold the metal disk. It can fall out.

If you own several CX-2's and they produce different water activity readings ( $\pm 0.003$ ) then they all need to be cleaned. Don't try to make them match without cleaning, it's a waste of time.



It's a 6 minute walk from the parking lot to our lab.



Luckily, AquaLab measures water activity in less than 5 minutes.



AquaLab verifies our new food product complies with new shelf life regulations.



Right on schedule...

Bam!



Let's check this place out!

Right Chief!



Suddenly!

What?!

"Hey! Where did the AquaLab water activity meter go?"

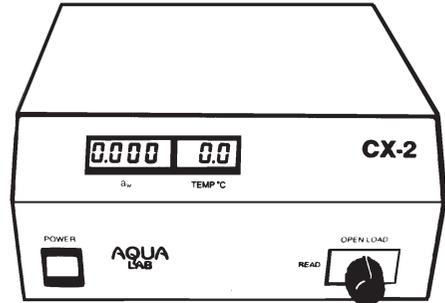
Zip!

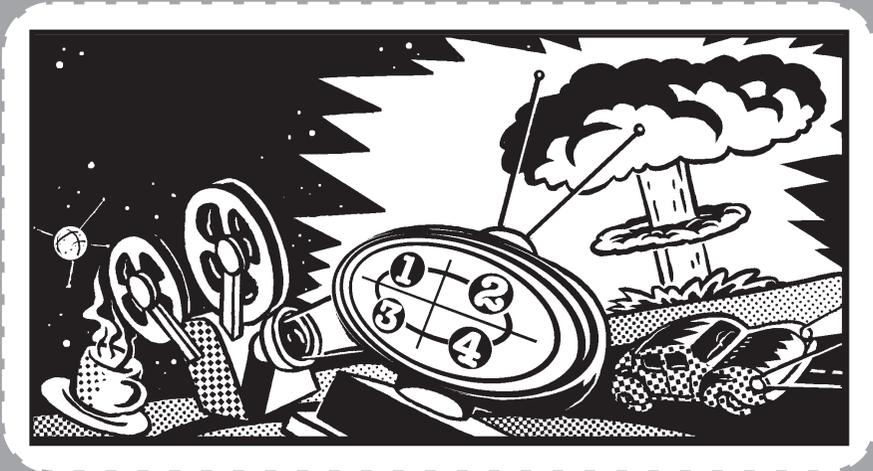
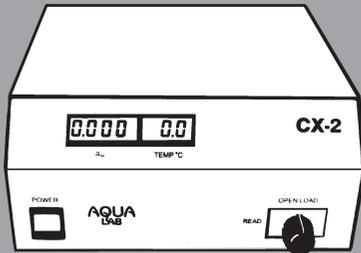
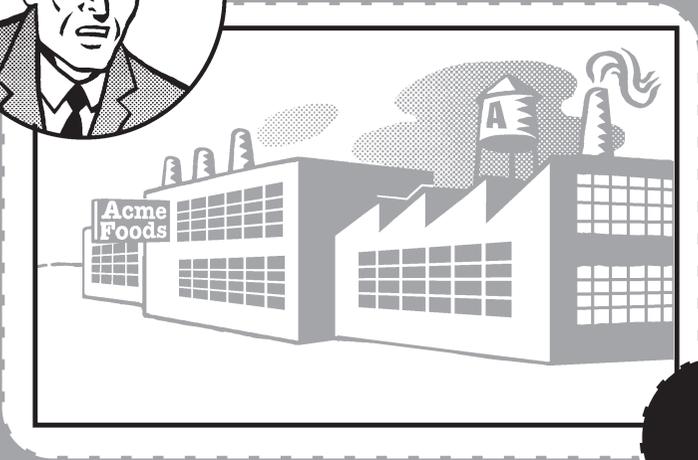
This AquaLab is one of Decagon's emergency loaners. I couldn't leave it with Bob and Betty. Not until they're future Decagon customers. Besides, it's needed elsewhere, wherever the danger of bad food taste threatens!

Zap!

The End!

The text in this brochure was set with Helvetica, Helvetica bold, Willow, and American Typewriter. The images were composed in Adobe Photoshop and Macromedia Freehand.





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